

# THE BAPTIST Record

SPECIAL EDITION

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Treasurers understand CP importance

By William H. Perkins, Jr.  
Editor

Ask the treasurer of just about any Mississippi Baptist church, and they'll be happy to explain how important the Cooperative Program (CP) is in reaching a lost world — beginning at the front doorstep of the church and reaching to the other side of the globe.

"Even if you're from a small church, you can help reach people for Jesus even though your church doesn't give a lot (in total dollars)," said Judy McInnis, treasurer for Mt. Gilead Church, Meridian. She estimated Mt. Gilead Church has about 85 people in attendance each Sunday.

McInnis said the members of Mt. Gilead Church believe they are following God's will when they give to CP. "It's not about dollars," she stressed. "It's about souls. It's about obedience."

The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' way of funding everything from local mission projects to seminary education to national and international missionaries.

Mississippi Baptist churches receive Cooperative Program gifts from members, and retain a percentage for the Kingdom work of the church. The remainder is forwarded to the Mississippi Baptist Convention, where messengers from the churches that sent the money gather each year to determine how much of the gifts to retain for Kingdom work of the state convention. (Many local churches also set aside an appropriation that is sent to the Baptist association in which they hold membership.)

The remainder is forwarded to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Executive Committee in Nashville, which follows instructions from messengers to the SBC annual meeting in disbursing the funds received from the state conventions for Kingdom work nationally and internationally.

Candace McRae, treasurer for Trinity Church, Marion, believes more needs to be done to alert church members to the importance of CP.

"I don't think people fully understand CP and everything CP is capable of doing. We need to get that message to the people. The people need to know that as long as there are lost souls, we're not doing enough and we need to do better," she said.

Joann Buie, treasurer for Shady Grove Church, Bogue Chitto, said she tries to lead the charge in her church when it comes to CP promotion. "I break it down so that a church member can understand how their single gift to CP can make a big difference," she said. "I post information on the church's bulletin board, and I make an effort to bring it before the church body long before the promotion time arrives."

Buie said she is proud that although Shady Grove Church is a church that has been hit hard by the declining economy of the past few years and has a significant number of older members on fixed incomes, members' sacrificial giving has allowed the church to maintain its CP percentage through tough times.

David Michel, associate executive director for missions strategy at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson, is responsible for CP promotion.



"Beyond CP's historical effectiveness, its interactive potential for linking believers, churches, denominational agencies, missionaries, and unreached people is unlimited. No single church, regional association, state convention, or denominational agency can hope to deploy a world-sized missions network alone.

"Yet, by combining resources and energies Southern Baptists field over 10,000 missionaries through the collaboration of 40 state conventions, 1,250 associations, and 45,000 churches. The combined strengths represented in the collaboration creates a missions infrastructure through which more than 100,000 short term volunteers serve around the world each year," Michel said.

Carroll Watts, treasurer of Friendship Church, Brookhaven, for the past 55 years, said CP education is vital. "The Woman's Missionary Union education effort in our church is an important link in that process. Our pastors over the years have also made a concerted effort to support and promote CP, too."

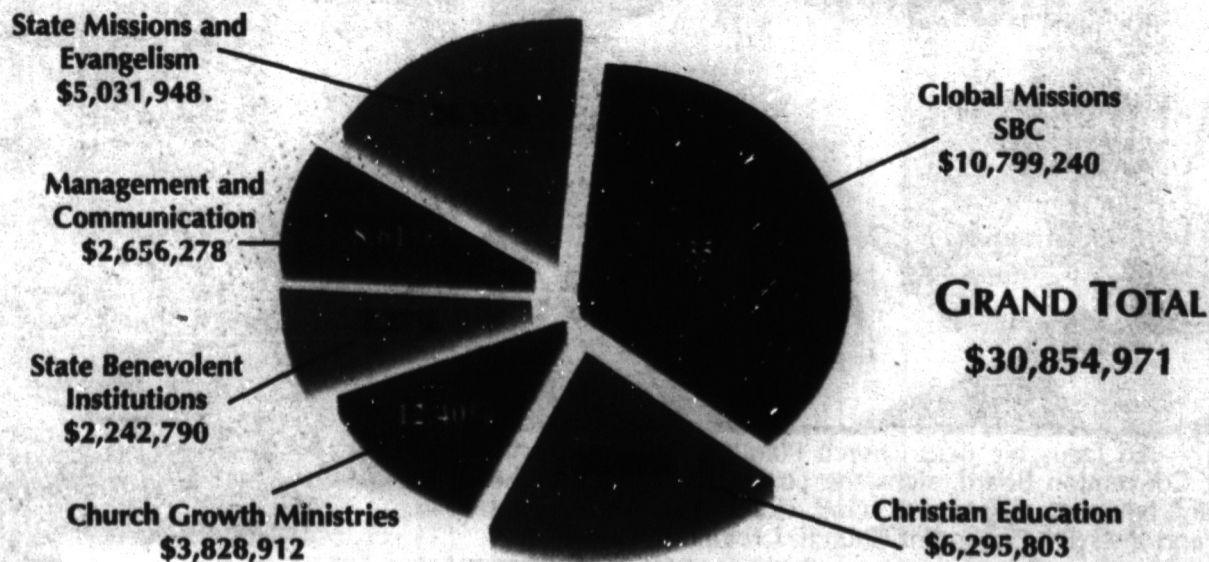
"Friendship Church is currently giving 17% of our budget to CP. That's because we are well aware that CP is the best way help in missions, to spread the Gospel around the world," Watts said.

Watts has a straightforward answer as to why he has served so long as a church treasurer — an often thankless job.

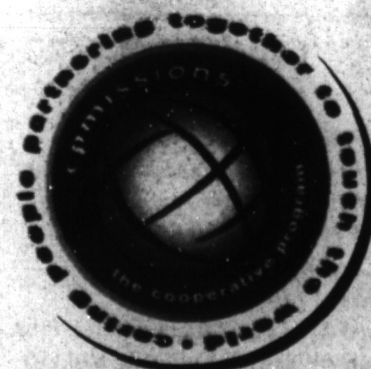
"They say they've never been able to find anyone who would take my place," he said with a knowing smile.

**IMPORTANCE OF CP** — David Michel (standing), associate executive director for missions strategy at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, stresses the importance of Cooperative Program giving to an audience of church treasurers and pastors gathered March 11 at Poplar Springs Drive Church, Meridian. (BR photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

### 2004 MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST COOPERATIVE PROGRAM MISSION BUDGET



**SPECIAL  
COOPERATIVE PROGRAM  
EDITION**



APRIL 22, 2004



# 2003 COOPERATIVE PRO

Church Offering Categories based on church offerings as  
Cooperative Program Gifts are actual receipts posted by the Mississippi

## CHURCH OFFERING CATEGORY: \$25,000 & BELOW

ASSOCIATION/CHURCH	CP GIFTS
MISSISSIPPI/BERWICK	\$6,952.00
CALHOUN/ROCKY MOUNT	\$2,412.05
GULF COAST/RIVERSIDE	\$2,371.66
LEAKE/EMMANUEL	\$2,253.94
PANOLA/PRIMERA BAPTIST MSN	\$2,239.88
YAZOO/ROCKY SPRINGS	\$2,129.80
HOLMES/MT. PLEASANT	\$1,986.18
LEAKE/IGLESIA INTERNACIONAL	\$1,984.67
NOXUBEE/MASHULAVILLE	\$1,777.56
ALCORN/JACINTO	\$1,752.10

## CHURCH OFFERING CATEGORY: \$25,000 - \$39,999

ASSOCIATION/CHURCH	CP GIFTS
NESHOBA/SPRING CREEK	\$15,906.75
KEMPER/CENTER RIDGE	\$9,500.00
PRENTISS/WHEELER	\$6,270.94
CALHOUN/OLDTOWN	\$5,671.04
WINSTON/ENON	\$4,385.70
NEWTON/ROCK BRANCH	\$4,049.00
HOLMES/WEST	\$4,014.76
WINSTON/DRY CREEK	\$3,716.00
METRO/OLD VICKSBURG ROAD	\$3,715.59
MID-DELTA/SHAW	\$3,696.71

## CHURCH OFFERING CATEGORY: \$40,000 - \$54,999

ASSOCIATION/CHURCH	CP GIFTS
LAUDERDALE/LIBERTY	\$7,440.24
SHARKEY-ISSAQ/DEER CREEK	\$6,913.14
UNION CO./MYRTLE	\$6,600.19
MARSHALL/CALVARY	\$6,222.00
LINCOLN/BETHEL	\$5,958.51
PEARL RIVER/HARMONY	\$5,852.84
MID-DELTA/LINN	\$5,840.21
FRANKLIN/LUCIEN	\$5,545.03
WEBSTER/NEW HOPE	\$5,416.00
NEWTON/LIBERTY	\$5,358.61

## CHURCH OFFERING CATEGORY: \$55,000 - \$74,999

ASSOCIATION/CHURCH	CP GIFTS
UNION CO/CENTER	\$14,955.34
PONTOTOC/LIBERTY	\$10,596.02
NORTHWEST/FBC DAYS	\$10,051.36
SHARKEY-ISSAQ/VALLEY PARK	\$9,592.06
CALHOUN/SABOUGLA	\$9,250.81
WEBSTER/LOLLARS GROVE	\$9,005.70
YAZOO/BETHLEHEM	\$8,336.89
LAMAR/ORAL	\$8,074.73
YAZOO/OAK GROVE	\$7,646.60
MID-DELTA/BENOIT	\$7,616.91

## CHURCH OFFERING CATEGORY: \$75,000 - \$99,999

ASSOCIATION/CHURCH	CP GIFTS
WINSTON/CALVARY	\$14,481.28
LAUDERDALE/CAUSEYVILLE	\$12,835.10
NEWTON/MT VERNON	\$12,268.49
CLARKE/SHUBUTA	\$11,500.63
ATTALA/MCCOOL	\$11,082.96
LAFAYETTE/COLLEGE HILL HEIGHTS	\$10,388.18
NESHOBA/OLD PEARL VALLEY	\$9,936.61
COV-JEFF DAVIS/OLD HEBRON	\$9,828.82
GREENE/ANTIOCH	\$9,810.12
SIMPSON/SILOAM	\$9,680.00

## New church birthed on Gulf Coast

By Tony Martin  
Associate Editor

It's a joyous day in most families when a new baby arrives — and it's an equally joyous day when a new church is birthed.

On April 15, the Church Planting Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB); the Gulf Coast Association; First Church, Gulfport; and a new congregation called Crosspoint Church entered into covenant with each other. The covenant signing at the offices of First, Gulfport, symbolically binds Crosspoint Church with the other signees in a pledge of accountability, support, encouragement, and purpose.

This covenant signing is nothing new. Since the inception of a new Mississippi Baptists Convention Board (MBCB) Church Planting Strategy in 1999, 27 new congregations have been planted, with more pending. According to MBCB Church Planting Director Ed Deuschle, "God is blessing the planting movement. \$372,710 has been invested in these plants."

Since inception, the MBCB Church Planting Department has recorded 823 professions of faith, 367 members by letter and 366 members by baptism in the new churches.

Each church plant has a unique story. The brief history of Crosspoint Church is tied to the work of Israel Cox, associate pastor of pastoral ministry at First Church, Gulfport. "About three years ago, we were all at a staff retreat, and were talking about the growth taking place in north Gulfport," he said. "We felt led to start a 'satellite' work in the Orange Grove community there."

"So, in 2001, we began Community Fellowship in the Orange Grove Community Center. Chuck (Charles Register, pastor of First Church, Gulfport) would preach and I would lead music early Sunday

mornings. Then we'd put on our ties and head downtown to First Church.

"We talked about the second campus model for some time, and in 2002 started that but we went through something of an identity crisis. I had been thinking about a different kind of church for that area, and God spoke to me at a conference in Georgia, giving me a vision of what might be done."

"We talked to a core group at Orange Grove about a new church being started, and I talked to our deacons and other leaders. We had unanimous support."

Crosspoint has a core group of 35-40 meeting at 6 p.m. on Saturdays. "We try to do outreach teams, servant evangelism. We'll have four mission teams coming this summer and early fall, and will launch the church September 12. Currently, we're meeting in the associational office," said Cox, "but we're desperately searching for a facility."

"It's been exciting to step back and see what God does," said Register. "We've been delighted to see Israel take leadership."

"I'm excited to see a new mission work," said Tommy Mitchell, missions director of the Gulf Coast Association. "We could start ten more missions tomorrow if we had the resources and leadership."

So how does one go about planting a church? According to the strategy developed by the MBCB Church Planting Department, the local association is the best place for initial contact about church planting. Most associations have developed a missions committee (council/team) for the purpose of addressing the need for new churches in the association. Many local churches also have leadership and resources to invest in beginning new churches.

Prayer, giving, going on mission with God, and serving as a church planter, mission pastor, core group member, or serving as a volunteer

are all integral components of a church plant. The MBCB Church Planting Department exists to partner with and support all church planting needs in the state.

"Pray a lot," said Cox on beginning a new church. "Talk to people in the community, seek out God."

"I'm so impressed with First Church's vision. We can reach folks who would never darken the door of First Church, and these are people who need to be reached. There are 200,000 people in Harrison County, and 75% of those are unchurched. There are 150 evangelical churches here, but only 17,000 in average attendance. So you can see the need."

Church plants through the MBCB Church Planting Department are supported by gifts to the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering and the Mississippi Cooperative Program.

For more information on church planting, contact the MBCB Church Planting Department at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS, 39205. Telephone (601) 292-3361 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 361. Email edeuschle@mbcb.org.



IN COVENANT — Ed Deuschle (left) Church Planting Director for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, signs the covenant formalizing the symbolic agreement between the MBCB, Gulf Coast Association, First Church, Gulfport, and the new Crosspoint Church. Crosspoint Pastor Israel Cox awaits the opportunity to add his signature. (BR photo by Tony Martin)



# PROGRAM CENTURY CLUB

as reported on the 2002-2003 Annual Church Profile.  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board from October 2002 - September 2003.

## Mississippian recounts CP history

JACKSON, Tenn. (BP and local reports) — As a child, Gene Fant Jr.'s family shared their home with a mission church in Fredonia, N.Y. His Sunday School class met in his bedroom, professions of faith were made in the living room, and baptisms took place in the garage.

Why was there a baptistry in the garage? "Because my parents answered the call to missions and moved us from Mississippi to New York," said Fant, a former faculty member at Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton and current associate professor of English and chair of the department at Union University in Jackson, Tenn., which is affiliated with the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

"They believed the people of western New York needed to hear the Good News of Christ. Southern Baptists funneled a part of their tithes and offerings into a massive pool of resources called the Cooperative Program. The Cooperative Program put that baptistry in our garage, which means the 'father' of the Cooperative Program, M.E. Dodd, helped to put it there," he said.

Fant, addressing a Founders' Day program earlier this year on the Union University campus, spoke on the topic of: "Missions, Education and the Cooperative Program, or How M.E. Dodd helped to put a baptistry in my family's garage and helped to pay your Union tuition."

The idea behind Union's annual Founder's Day emphasis, as Fant described it, is to "study the great persons who have been our forerunners in order to lift up our eyes and to see the potential toward which we ourselves can strive." M.E. Dodd and his wife Emma were both Union graduates.

Dodd would have been content to be a farmer, Fant said, if it were not for a Union student, Forest Smith, who spoke at Poplar Grove Church one Sunday. Dodd went forward to give his life to Jesus and soon felt called into the ministry. That calling led him to Union, where he met his wife, the daughter of former Union President George Savage. After graduation, the couple began a life of ministry, serving in churches in Fulton, Paducah, and Louisville, Ky., and then at First Church, Shreveport, La.

As the Louisiana church grew in prominence, Dodd served in Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) leadership positions. At that time, the SBC was "loosely knit, poorly financed, and enduring theological crises," Fant said.

"Dodd understood something valuable," Fant said. "The solution to a convention-wide theological crisis could be found in a renewed, sacrificial focus on missions. In 1925, Dodd's vision for a passionate support of missions, education and benevolence articulated itself in what we now call the Cooperative Program."

Since that time, Southern Baptists have given more than \$10 billion to Cooperative Program causes and now support more than 10,000 missionaries at home and overseas, assist 15,000 seminary students, operate disaster relief ministries that are second only to the Red Cross, aid needy children through Baptist children's homes and operate a ministerial annuity program almost without peer, Fant said.

"The beauty of the Cooperative Program in Southern Baptist life has



FANT ON DODD — Former Mississippian Gene Fant Jr., associate professor of English and chair of the department at Union University in Jackson, Tenn., recently delivered an address at the university on the life of M.E. Dodd, who has been credited with the birth of the Cooperative Program. (Photo courtesy of Union University)

been the way that it has compelled us to fulfill the Great Commandment," he said. "By participating sacrificially in Cooperative Program giving, we work together to change lives through Christ's redeeming power."

Fant said Dodd knew that Christians' resources should flow in the praise of God and in the service of others. "Our stewardship of resources is an overflow of our spiritual state. It's not about financial responsibility; it's about spiritual discipline."

President David S. Dockery, who praised Fant's address, said "it is vital for us to re-educate a new generation regarding the importance of the Cooperative Program for supporting Baptist higher education and missions."

Fant's father, Gene Fant Sr., is the retired pastor of Center Terrace Church, Canton. Fant's mother, Mona Faith, is a music evangelist and Christian recording artist. His parents reside in Clinton.

Editor's note: The full text of Fant's address can be accessed at <http://www.uu.edu/news/newsreleases/release.cfm?ID=679>



MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

### CHURCH OFFERING CATEGORY: \$100,000 - \$149,999

ASSOCIATION/CHURCH	CP GIFTS
MID-DELTA/SKENE	\$27,052.82
SHARKEY-ISSAQ/FBC ANGUILLA INC	\$24,395.46
CALHOUN/BIG CREEK	\$21,009.77
MONTGOMERY/BETHSAIDA	\$20,822.79
YALOBUSHA/BETHEL	\$19,144.00
ADAMS/CLIFF TEMPLE	\$18,162.10
YAZOO/CONCORD	\$18,153.17
PIKE/NAVILLA	\$17,944.46
NORTH CENTRAL/HEBRON	\$17,885.53
MID-DELTA/DREW	\$17,633.32

### CHURCH OFFERING CATEGORY: \$150,000 - \$249,999

ASSOCIATION/CHURCH	CP GIFTS
CARROLL/CARROLLTON	\$53,970.27
PEARL RIVER/UNION	\$45,813.41
COV-JEFF DAVIS/WHITESAND	\$40,502.00
PONTOTOC/ECRU	\$40,029.12
LAWRENCE/SHILOH	\$38,159.00
SCOTT/SPRINGFIELD	\$36,725.22
PIKE/TERRY'S CREEK	\$34,057.72
LINCOLN/NEW PROSPECT	\$33,768.53
HOLMES/FBC LEXINGTON	\$33,722.82
RANKIN/CATO	\$33,308.79

### CHURCH OFFERING CATEGORY: \$250,000 - \$499,999

ASSOCIATION/CHURCH	CP GIFTS
PERRY/FBC RICHTON	\$70,683.00
LAWRENCE/NEW HEBRON	\$62,672.17
NEWTON/HICKORY	\$60,949.94
RANKIN/FBC PEARL	\$59,898.69
NEWTON/FBC UNION	\$59,787.56
JONES/INDIAN SPRINGS	\$58,403.52
NORTHWEST/FBC COLDWATER	\$57,362.35
PIKE/CENTRAL	\$57,243.11
MARION/BUNKER HILL	\$57,011.34
COV-JEFF DAVIS/PRENTISS	\$52,956.23

### CHURCH OFFERING CATEGORY: \$500,000 - \$999,999

ASSOCIATION/CHURCH	CP GIFTS
MONTGOMERY/FBC WINONA	\$177,313.89
PEARL RIVER/FBC PICAYUNE	\$160,557.84
COPIAH/FBC CRYSTAL SPRINGS	\$123,179.00
CHICKASAW/FBC HOUSTON	\$115,407.93
MID-DELTA/FBC CLEVELAND	\$113,500.08
LAUDERDALE/FBC COLLINSVILLE	\$108,858.70
NEWTON/FBC NEWTON	\$108,800.39
LEE/FBC BALDWIN	\$107,779.81
SIMPSON/FBC MAGEE	\$100,370.28
RANKIN/BRIAR HILL	\$94,658.07

### CHURCH OFFERING CATEGORY: \$1,000,000 & ABOVE

ASSOCIATION/CHURCH	CP GIFTS
METRO/FBC JACKSON	\$760,117.03
METRO/COLONIAL HEIGHTS	\$395,624.31
LEE/CALVARY	\$363,840.77
RANKIN/FBC BRANDON	\$339,348.00
LEE/HARRISBURG	\$337,182.60
METRO/MORRISON HEIGHTS	\$296,507.08
METRO/FBC CLINTON	\$279,925.55
METRO/BROADMOOR	\$264,895.26
GOLDEN TRIANGLE/FAIRVIEW	\$239,935.70
METRO/FBC MADISON	\$234,199.93



# 2004 MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST COOPERATIVE PROGRAM BUDGET MISSIONS ALLOCATIONS

## GLOBAL MISSIONS/SBC

17.50%	International Mission Board	\$5,399,620
7.98%	North American Mission Board	\$2,462,227
7.57%	Six Seminaries	\$2,335,721
1.16%	SBC Operations	\$357,918
0.79%	Other Agencies	\$243,754
35.00%	Subtotal	\$10,799,240

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

8.55%	Mississippi College	\$2,635,661
7.27%	William Carey	\$2,243,920
3.19%	Blue Mountain	\$983,287
1.23%	Board of Ministerial Education	\$380,444
0.17%	Education Commission	\$52,491
20.40%	Subtotal	\$6,295,803

## STATE MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM

5.32%	Collegiate Ministry	\$1,639,981
2.68%	Woman's Missionary Union	\$825,924
1.85%	Church Planting	\$571,111
1.68%	Missionary Training	\$518,323
1.77%	Men's Ministry	\$545,493
1.46%	Missionary Mobilization	\$450,000
0.87%	Evangelism Promotion	\$267,298
0.69%	Student Ministry	\$213,818
16.32%	Subtotal	\$5,031,948
2.22%	Discipleship/Family Ministry	\$685,997
1.62%	Capital Needs	\$500,000
1.99%	Sunday School	\$615,293
1.62%	Gulfshore Baptist Assembly	\$498,992
1.07%	Church Growth	\$330,688
1.46%	Church Music	\$451,260
0.95%	Pastor/Leadership Development	\$292,964
0.89%	Church Minister Relations	\$275,431
0.58%	Church/Community Impact	\$178,287
12.40%	Subtotal	\$3,828,912

## STATE BENEVOLENT INSTITUTIONS

3.08%	Church Annuity	\$951,436
1.67%	Baptist Children's Village	\$515,042
1.32%	MS Baptist Foundation	\$407,549
1.00%	Christian Action Commission	\$308,435
0.20%	Historical Commission	\$60,328
7.27%	Subtotal	\$2,242,790

## MANAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION

2.33%	Resources Services/Accounting	\$719,786
2.15%	The Baptist Record	\$662,762
1.35%	Communication Services	\$417,198
1.41%	Executive Leadership Team	\$434,624
1.04%	Computer Information Services	\$321,108
0.33%	Convention Session & Committees	\$101,100
8.61%	Subtotal	\$2,656,278

**GRAND TOTAL: \$30,854,971**

# CP maximizes mission effort

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Since its launch in 1925, the effectiveness of Cooperative Program (CP) Missions has been dependent upon individuals, churches, state conventions and SBC entities cooperating, working toward a common goal of sharing the Gospel with every person on the planet.

Simply put, CP begins with individuals. Individuals first give themselves to God (2 Corinthians 8:5). Next, out of gratitude and obedience to God for what He has done, individuals commit to give back to Him, through their churches, a portion of what He provides. This is commonly called a tithe and represents 10% of an individual's income (Leviticus 27:30, Malachi 3:10).

The local church decides the next step. Every year churches affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention and state Baptist conventions prayerfully decide how much of undesignated gifts will be committed to reaching people in the U.S. and around the world through CP Missions. This amount is then forwarded from each church to the state Baptist convention with which the church is affiliated.

During the annual meeting of the state convention, messengers elected from churches in that convention decide what percentage of CP Missions gifts contributed by local congregations stays in that state to reach people and support local missions and ministries.

The percentage to be forwarded to the SBC for North American and international missions and ministries also is determined at this time. This is the SBC portion of CP. Messengers to the Mississippi Baptist Convention annual meeting last fall directed that 35% of CP gifts from Mississippi Baptist churches in 2004 be forwarded to the SBC Executive Committee in Nashville, for distribution according to the CP allocation budget.

At the SBC annual meeting, messengers from Southern Baptist churches across the country decide how CP gifts received from the states will be distributed among SBC entities. These gifts are used by Southern Baptist entities to send and support missionaries, train pastors, missionaries and other ministry leaders, provide relief for retired ministers and widows, and address social, moral and ethical concerns relating to our faith and families.

More than 94% of the CP gifts forwarded to the SBC Executive Committee go toward sending, supporting and training missionaries, pastors and other church leaders.

The bottom line — people around the world hear the Gospel and receive Christ.

Churches work together through affiliation with state conventions to reach people and support a wide array of ministries and missions including: evangelism efforts, children's homes, volunteer missions, missions education, new churches, colleges and universities, collegiate ministries and camps.

For additional information concerning specific state conventions, log on to [www.sbc.net](http://www.sbc.net) and click on state conventions. The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's web site can be found at [www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org).

Through the International Mission Board, Southern Baptists support more than 5,380 missionaries who are engaging 1,400-plus different people groups around the world.

New churches numbering more than 1,788 were planted through the efforts of more than 5,200 North American missionaries, whose efforts are coordinated through the North American Mission Board and individual state conventions. In Mississippi, the MBCB Church Planting Department is assigned that responsibility.

Six Southern Baptist seminaries (Southern, Southeastern, Midwestern, Southwestern, Golden Gate, and New Orleans) educate more than 15,250 pastors, missionaries and future church leaders each year.

The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission is dedicated to addressing social, moral and ethical concerns, with particular attention to their impact on American families and their faith. They also provide print resources that offer scriptural responses to the moral and ethical problems of our culture.

Your prayers and support also undergird the work of the Annuity Board and the Southern Baptist Foundation.

As a result of local churches, state conventions, and SBC entities working together, Southern Baptists saw more than 816,000 new believers baptized in 2002, the latest year for which overall statistics are available. That's the power of cooperation!

Simply defined, Cooperative Program (CP) Missions is caring people, partnering together, to touch the world.

For more information on CP Missions and promotional resources, contact David Michel, MBCB Associate Executive Director for Missions Strategy, at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3233 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 233. E-mail: [dmichel@mbcb.org](mailto:dmichel@mbcb.org).

# NOBTS establishing CP chair

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Trustees of New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) established the Cooperative Program (CP) Chair for Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Studies and approved a required graduate course to promote CP awareness, during their April 14 meeting in New Orleans.

"The 'lifeblood' of Southern Baptists at every level and in every ministry is the Cooperative Program," said NOBTS President Chuck Kelley. "The genius of the Southern Baptist Convention is that we have learned we can do things together that none of us could do individually."

Kelley said by giving to CP, SBC churches of all sizes are able to participate in Kingdom ministries that touch all areas of the world. He said he hopes the seminary will instill an attitude of cooperation and SBC support in each of its graduates.

"The Cooperative Program forms 50% of our budget," Kelley told trustees. "It is the Southern Baptist Convention and its churches that keeps our doors open. The best way to support NOBTS and SBC missions and ministries is to encourage churches to support the Cooperative Program."

The new faculty chair to study and promote the Cooperative Program at NOBTS will be funded by CP income, grants and endowment gifts of interested Southern Baptists. In establishing the chair, trustees expressed the desire to acknowl-

edge the SBC's role of founding, owning and financially supporting NOBTS in a tangible way.

Stan Norman, associate professor of theology, was selected to occupy the CP faculty chair. The author of *More Than Just a Name: Preserving Our Baptist Identity*, and director of the seminary's Baptist Center for Theology and Ministry, Norman is a recognized expert in the area of Baptist distinctives.

Norman will coordinate the seminary's academic instruction about CP including a mandatory course approved by the board. Every graduate student at NOBTS will be required to take the one-hour course about CP.

The course, *An Introduction to NOBTS*, the SBC and the Cooperative Program, will be designed to give future pastors and ministers the training needed to explain and promote CP in their churches. Exit exams will gauge each student's knowledge of the CP just before graduation. These results will be used to improve the CP training students receive.

During the course, each student will receive CP training materials including a CD of classroom presentations. Students will be encouraged to use the CD and other resources to educate the churches they lead about the importance of CP giving.



## JUST FOR THE RECORD



Webster Association Children's Bible Drill Participants



Webster Association Youth Bible Drill Participants

Webster Association, Webster County, recently held Bible Drill. Pictured are the youth and children winners.

The English as a Second Language group of Calvary Church, Waynesboro, held a recognition service for their first group of students to complete their beginner study course. They were presented with certificates and t-shirts March 31. Other students and teachers that have participated in the program are pictured.



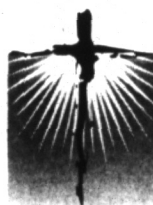
English as a Second Language Calvary Church, Waynesboro

First Church, Maben, honored Eldon (Jeffie) Hester upon her retirement from 50 years of service as church organist/pianist March 21. She was honored with a plaque, money gift, cards of appreciation, and a reception. Pictured (from left) are Billy Hester, minister of music, Randle Poss, pastor emeritus, Jeffie Hester, and Tommy Temple, pastor.



B. Hester, R. Poss, J. Hester, and T. Temple, pastor

Freeny Church, Carthage, recently held a deacon ordination for Paul Long and Frank Johnson. Pictured (from left) are Long, John Adams, pastor, and Johnson.



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Paul Long, John Adams, pastor, and Frank Johnson

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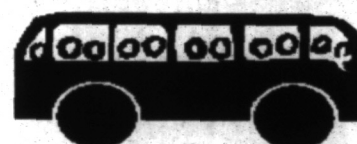
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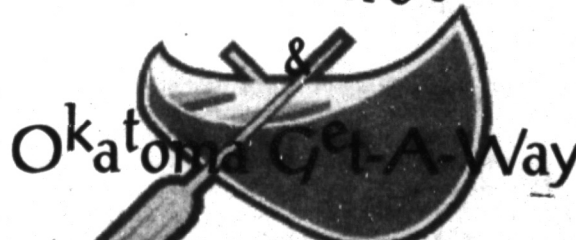
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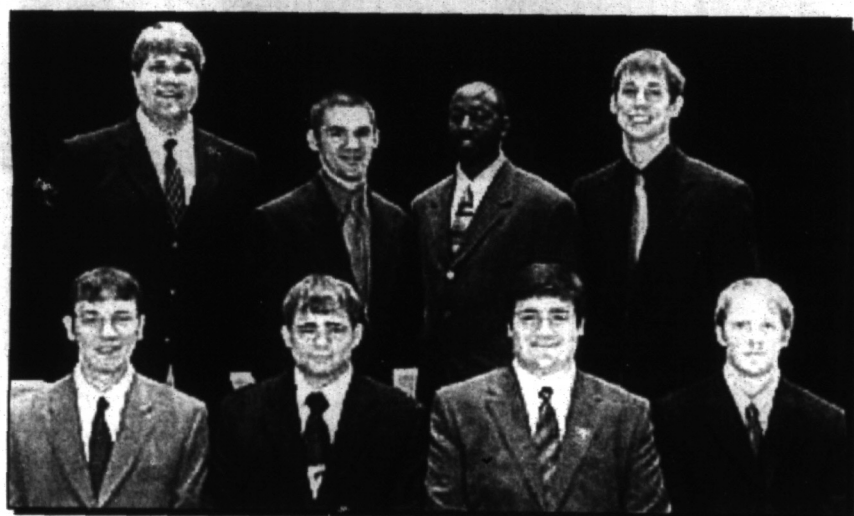
## COLLEGE & SEMINARY NEWS



Blue Mountain College Scholarship Winners



Blue Mountain College SGA



Blue Mountain College Ministerial Association

William Carey College will host the 20th Annual Conference on the Elderly Mississippian with a Mental Handicap April 30 from 9 a.m. — 4:45 p.m. in the Thomas Fine Arts Building, Hattiesburg campus. Registration is \$25. Registration sheets are available at the Hattiesburg Public Library or by contacting Paul Cotton, 498 Tuscan Avenue, Hattiesburg, MS 39401, (601) 318-6416. Walk-ins will be charged a \$5 late fee.

The Blue Mountain College Alumni Association awarded 32 Travis Scholarships and three Christian Leadership Scholarships to current BMC ministerial students at the annual meeting March 25. The 35 scholarships totaled almost \$11,000.

A Basic Congregational Nurse Preparation course will be offered for RNs, clergy and chaplains interested in the ministry of a church nursing practice, by Mississippi College School of Nursing, co-sponsored by MBCB, and Baptist Health Systems May 20-23. Contact (601) 925-3391 or bolian@mc.edu.

The William Carey College newspaper, The Cobbler, received six awards at the 2003-2004 Better Newspaper Contest sponsored by the Mississippi Press Association held recently in Jackson. Mitchell Smith, Amanda Eady, and Rachel George received individual awards. Debbie Montgomery, assistant professor of communication and journalism, serves as advisor. Members of the newspaper staff are Emily Wade, Anne Brinkman, Bobbi Borne-Smith, Henry Jefferson, Breck Short, Hope Johnstone, and Sinclair Jackson.

Blue Mountain College held its annual installation ceremony for incoming 2004-05 student leaders March 22. Becky Bennett, dean of student affairs, presented



Blue Mountain College's Ministerial Association Officers

each council and President Bettye Coward presented the Challenge to Leadership. The new SGA president is Lisa Amburn. The new Ministerial Association president is James Underwood.

The annual meeting of Blue Mountain College's Ministerial Association was held March 25. Officers elected for 2004-05

include Randy Hamilton, president; Bill Baker, vice-president/president-elect; Ron Harrison, secretary/treasurer; and scholarship committee members: Brent Colley, Mike Priest, and Terry Ledbetter. Pictured (from left, front) are Ledbetter, Colley, Baker, (back) Stanley Huddleston, Brian Rainey, and Hamilton.

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Warfare in the Lives of  
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with

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Senior Associate Dean,  
Billy Graham School of Evangelism  
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

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## JUST FOR THE RECORD



Bill Dowdy, pastor, and Gerald Robbins



John & Laura Henry, & Mickey McLendon, pastor



Ray Burke & Hudson Anthony

Cairo Church, Ecu, recently honored Gerald Robbins with an appreciation certificate for his service to the church and community. Pictured (from left) are Bill Dowdy, pastor, and Robbins.

Lorena Church, Smith, recently recognized Mayola Shirley with nine years perfect attendance in Sunday School. Pictured (from left) are Jim Praet, Shirley, and Tommy Anderson, pastor.



Crestview Church Mission Trip, Petal



Greenville Church WMU, Greenville



New Sight Children's Jubilee, Brookhaven

Bobby Shurden, pastor, took ten members of Crestview Church, Petal, along with nine from other churches on a mission trip to Mexico in March. Pictured is Shurden with two Mexican children. Anyone interested in participating in a mission trip to Mexico can call (601) 584-6822.

New Sight Church, Brookhaven, hosted its first ever Children's Jubilee March 19-20. The G.O.O.F. Troupe entertained and presented the gospel to children through sixth grade.

Beulah Church, Magee, recently gave the Seventy-Plus Choir a special recognition. Joe Ware is the choir director.



Praet, Shirley, & Anderson, pastor

Clayton Giles, Casey Torrence, Brittany Tagert, Jessica Tagert, and (front) Bible Buddies Olivia Lampkin, Karleigh Mahaffey, and Creston Giles. Brittany Tagert and Giles competed in Associational Bible Drill April 3 and State Bible Drill April 17.

Lynn Ray Road Church, Petal, held a Valentine Banquet Tacky Party. Pictured (from left) are Mickey Steele, pastor, and Emmitt Boone, pastor emeritus.

East Salem Church, Leakesville, held an appreciation March 28 for John Henry following services. He was presented with a plaque for his faithful service. Pictured (from left) are Henry, Laura Henry, and Mickey McLendon.

Crestwood Church, Booneville, held a note burning ceremony to celebrate the retiring of their fellowship debt March 28. Pictured (from left) are Bobby Davis, Charles Cleveland, Ray Johnson, Jackie Spencer, Richard Wold, Jackie Lindsey, and Ray Harden.

The Sanctuary Choir of First Church, Amory, recently hosted a surprise party for Hudson Anthony who has been a choir member for 67 1/2 years. Over 60 choir members and guests were present for the dinner and party. Pictured (from left) are Ray Burke, minister of music, presenting a plaque to Anthony.

First Church, Greenville, recently held a Roundtable Women on Mission meeting. Pictured (from left) are Eloise Cumbaa, Anne Mason, and Donna Massey looking over recent e-mails from a missionary.



Beulah Church Seventy Plus Choir, Magee



Mickey Steele, pastor, and Emmitt Boone



Branch Church Children's Bible Drill Participants, Morton



Crestwood Church Note Burning, Booneville



## FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

### Returning King

Matthew 24:42-44;

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 John 2:28-3:3

By Patsy Foster

Have you ever awaited the arrival of a loved one from a distant place? As you eagerly watched and waited, you grew drowsy and tired. You desperately wanted to stay awake for their arrival. We, as believers, should be awake, watching and waiting, expecting the return of our King, Jesus. The people of Noah's time had heard that the flood was coming for so long that they failed to believe and heed the warning. Do we believe that Jesus is coming again? If we do, then we should have a unique focus on the happenings of life.

In view of our Lord's return, the Apostle Paul encourages us

in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 to face the sorrows of death differently than the heathen who sorrow without hope. Romans 6:5 says, "For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection." Those who fall asleep in death will one day be resurrected from their graves, just as Jesus was from his. So, why should we embrace the hopelessness of the world regarding death? Though we sorrow at being parted from our loved ones, in our hearts we acknowledge that they, being absent from the body, are present with the Lord. There in His presence they are experiencing fullness of joy (Psalm 16:11).



Foster

When the Lord returns with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trump of God, "all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and they shall come forth..." (John 5:28). Hallelujah! The dead shall be raised first, and then we, who are alive, shall be changed from corruptible to incorruptible, from mortal to immortal (1 Corinthians 15:52-53). Then we will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Barnes writes in his commentary that the word "caught up" implies that we will not ascend by our own effort or will, but by a power applied to us which will cause us to rise up. We can indeed comfort one another with these words!

Also in light of his return, we are exhorted to be confident in our Father's love and to abide in Him, that when He shall appear,

we may have confidence and not be ashamed at His coming. John tells us to think about what manner of love has been given us by the Father, that we should be called His sons. Consider a king going out into the streets and finding the poorest, vilest person and adopting them into his family, making them heir of all he possessed. Wouldn't you think that person would be a devoted subject of the king forever? As subjects of our king, the world will no more understand or accept us than they did Him, but we are promised that when Christ appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as he is. Have you thought much about His glorious appearing, about what it will be like to behold Him? In 1 John 3:1, he writes that every man that has this hope purifies himself, even as Christ is pure. Looking for the Lord's return will cause us to put away the sin in our lives. When my cousins and I were teenagers, my grandmother would encourage us never to go anywhere that

we would be ashamed to be if the Lord came back while we were there. No man knows the hour, but the Father. Jesus will come suddenly as a thief in the night.

Suppose the President is a dear friend of yours and sends you word that he will be visiting your home this summer, but can't tell you exactly when. Excitedly, you get your house in order and tell your friends. Two weeks before summer is over, he still hasn't come. Friends question if he's coming at all and you begin to wonder if he really is. You're weary of waiting and watching, so you resume your life as usual. Then one day he comes, and you're ashamed. You weren't expecting him, so you weren't prepared. You knew he was a person who kept his word, but it had been so long... "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh" (Matthew 24:44).

Foster is member of Murphy Creek Church, Louisville.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Persevere Diligently

II Timothy 2:1-15, 20-21

By Bobby McKay

I have always said that there ought to be a book written on the silly and petty things that we as Southern Baptists argue about. There is no doubt that if every Mississippi Baptist church were to send in a list of accounts of the troubles and problems they have experienced in their church history it would probably fill the entire Baptist Building. Some complaints have been legitimate, while an embarrassing majority of groveling is over something that is no more important than spilled milk. I have heard stories and know instances first-hand that should cause us to shake our head in disbelief. I know of people that like to compete with others on how bad the troublemakers are in their own church. While some of the stories might seem humorous, they are truly sad.

For years our churches have allowed the Devil to win victories in the congregation by not keeping our focus on the main thing. If the Devil uses God's people to argue about carpet color, ministry plans, or community involvement, he has won a small battle.

The "main thing" previously mentioned is Jesus Christ. Like Peter, when we take our eyes off of Him we will sink. This is not true of every church, but many churches are having difficulties because they have gotten their priorities in the wrong order. Our number one mission from God is to present the Gospel to every man, woman, and child in our community. That means every one! If we are busy sharing how to be saved with our neighbors, God will make clear to us how to handle the



McKay

situations that may arise in our church. If you can trust God with your soul, shouldn't you be able to trust him with the problems that come about in your church?

Paul is telling us in our lesson today to keep on keeping on. One thing you have to admire about the Apostle Paul is that he never gave up. He went through trials and tribulations that none of us can fully relate to. Paul experienced imprisonment, shipwreck, and beating all for the cause of Christ. This chapter should come alive for us as we remember what Paul went through as God's obedient servant. Also, it should compel us to diligently persevere and not fall into the schemes of the wicked one.

#### I. THE COMPARISON (2:1-7)

Here we see Paul describing the role of not only the pastor but to every Christian. In verses one through seven he compares the Christian Life with four different occupa-

tions. I have always had the utmost respect for those who serve in the field of education. The teachers that commit their lives to making an impact on young people are of great pleasure to God. Paul is saying here, that as Christians, we are teachers too. Our curriculum, if you will, is the message of salvation.

Next he compares us to soldiers. Our awaferness of the military is at a climax due to the conflict in Iraq. Soldiers we are to carry out the mission that God has laid before us each and every day. Thirdly, as an athlete we are to always be considerate and fair in our dealings with people. Otherwise, we will not bring glory to the Lord. Lastly, he refers to farmers. Many churches are not growing due to the fact that the members are not willing to plow and get their hands dirty. When we do not water or work the fields in our community, no one grows.

#### II. CODE OF CONDUCT (2:8-16)

When I was at Blue Mountain College they had in place what they entitled the

Honor Code. This code has been enforced for a long time and to my knowledge it is still intact. Basically this was a document that stated principles that would reflect Christian character and the college as a whole.

Paul is giving us a code of conduct as well. He desires for us to know in verses 10 through 13 that being a follower of Christ means serious business. We died with Him, and we should also live for Him. We should never deny the Lord, and we are to remain faithful, for He is faithful!

In verses 14 through 16 he reminds us to be diligent and present ourselves to God as a worker who doesn't need to be ashamed. We can do this by correctly teaching and applying the Bible and also to avoid what I call the mouth trap. He tells us specifically in verse 16 to avoid empty speech. It's just like mama used to tell you, "If you don't have something nice to say, don't say anything at all."

McKay is pastor of Spring Hill Church, Waterford.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (b) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include

the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital

printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp,

and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people, no landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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rose from the grave to  
forgive my sins and to restore  
my relationship with you.  
(I believe in Jesus.)
  4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ  
into my life. From this time on,  
I want to live in a  
loving relationship with Him.  
(I receive Christ as my  
Savior and Lord.)
- But as many as received him, to  
them he gave the right to  
become children of God, even to  
those who believe in his name  
(John 1:12).

If you make a decision for  
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### Bibliocipher

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EGQ BWDGE GVOY AC  
EGQ RAUQB AC DAO.

NMZQ EUQYEP-EUA:  
LWJEP-YWYQ

Clue: Z = I

Have fun with cryptography  
and exercise your Bible knowl-  
edge. A King James Version  
Bible verse has been encoded  
by letter substitution. The same  
letter is substituted throughout  
the puzzle. Solve by trial and  
error. Answer to last week's  
puzzle: John 8:24

# NOBTS struggles with 'sole owner' issue

NEW ORLEANS (BP and local reports) — New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) trustees voted April 14 to offer messengers to the 2005 Southern Baptist Convention a choice between two different charter amendments, designed to resolve an impasse between the two groups over how to govern the seminary. One proposal will utilize "sole member" language requested by the SBC Executive Committee (EC). A yet-to-be-written alternative to that proposal will confirm the Southern Baptist Convention as the school's rightful owner.

The EC has asked Southern Baptist entities under its control to legally designate the EC as the "sole member" of the institutions' governing bodies, essentially meaning that EC could override the trustees of an institution if EC members deemed doing so to be in the best interest of the entity.

Every institution under EC control has agreed to the 'sole member' request, with the exception of New Orleans Seminary. NOBTS President Chuck Kelley and several members of the school's trustee body have expressed concerns about concentrating absolute control of the seminary in the hands of the EC.

By a vote of 33-6 with one new trustee abstaining, the NOBTS board decided Southern Baptist messengers are the best audience to settle whether NOBTS should name the Southern Baptist Convention as the sole member of the NOBTS' corporation.

Sole membership is a legal mechanism that allows a parent organization to establish its ownership (as sole member of the corporation) of a subordinate entity while setting limitations to the parent entity's control, thereby limiting the legal liability of the parent for the subsidiary.

In 1997, the North American Mission Board became the first SBC entity to name the convention as sole member of its corporation. In October 2003, NOBTS trustees voted against naming the SBC as the sole member of their seminary's corporation.

### INTENSE DISCUSSION

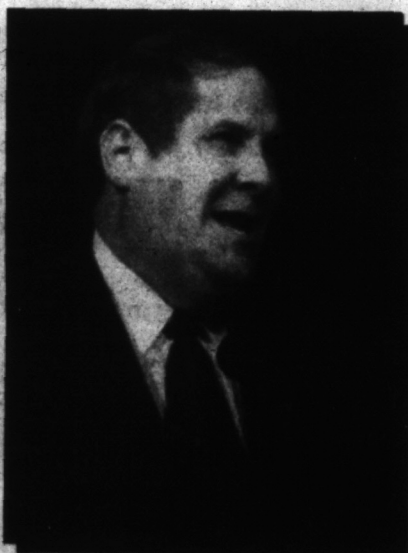
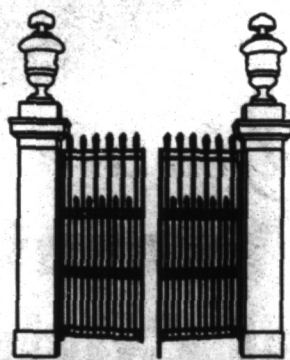
NOBTS trustees discussed sole membership intensely at times during their April 14 plenary session, referring negatively to dealings with the SBC Executive Committee including interactions at the SBC EC meeting in February of this year when a resolution passed asking NOBTS trustees to name the SBC as sole member.

"We picked up a lot of heat at the meeting," acknowledged trustee chairman Tommy French of Baton Rouge, La. "Many of those folks are my friends so I'm not going to become their enemy. I am not going to conduct myself in a way others have conducted themselves, so let us not as a board develop friction between us and the Executive Committee."

French restated the board's responsibility to look after the interests of the Southern Baptist Convention, adding that the Executive Committee has a similar task. "They have one opinion and we have an opinion. We're Baptists. It's a wonder we don't have three opinions. Let them do their work and then the Southern Baptist Convention will settle the matter. We'll still be friends, still work together for the Kingdom of God, this institution and this great denomination."

NOBTS President Chuck Kelley indicated that since the Feb. 17 action by the SBC EC he had reviewed three options, preferring that messengers in 2005 pick from the two choices of charter amendments that are to be drafted. The second option included the same two amendment choices but called for action at this year's SBC annual meeting, which is only two months away. The third option proposed to set aside all objections and use the sole member language originally proposed by the EC.

## New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary



Kelley



Chapman

Trustee Don Taylor of Alameda, Calif., made a motion that basically affirmed Kelley's preference, but using his own language, proposed that the board "delay a further decision until next year at which time we will put two alternatives before the SBC, pre-approved by the board, and ask the convention to choose which [one] it prefers."

"Whichever one the convention chose would be enacted immediately without further action by the board. One alternative would be some form of sole membership that takes into consideration the unique issues of Louisiana law. The other would be our best alternative to sole membership."

Taylor's motion passed with six trustees voting in the negative — five of these expressed concerns about the wording of Taylor's motion and the other noted that he didn't see sole membership as a threat.

### WHY SOLE MEMBERSHIP?

In a Dec. 16, 2003, letter to NOBTS trustees, SBC EC President Morris H. Chapman explained why the SBC had pursued the issue of sole membership with its entities.

"The greatest single reason for sole membership, of course, is to ensure that the Southern Baptist Convention's ownership of its various entities would be recognized by the secular courts of law in the United States without expending hundreds of thousands of Cooperative Program dollars try-

ing to prove ownership," Chapman wrote. He also noted that by establishing SBC ownership of all entities as subsidiary corporations, the convention would be further protected against dangers of ascending liability.

Kelley disagreed, maintaining that Louisiana lawyers have advised him that sole membership would be viewed differently in that state, possibly increasing liability for the denomination.

During the SBC EC February meeting, Kelley and Southern Baptist Convention attorney Jim Guenther presented differing cases to SBC Executive Committee members — Kelley arguing against sole membership, Guenther arguing for it — in which both addressed this point. Guenther, who has served as attorney for the Southern Baptist Convention for 40 years, disagreed with NOBTS' lawyers, saying that he was "satisfied that we're going to be better off from the point of view of ascending liability as the sole member."

Kelley also expressed polity concerns about sole membership, telling SBC EC members at the Feb. meeting that the problem was that Louisiana corporate law gives the sole member "complete power."

"In Louisiana corporate law, the sole member always has the rights and can in fact change the trustee rights anytime they want to. That's again our polity concern — there is a polity question that is there."

### 'MISINFORMATION CAMPAIGN'

Several trustees dismissed setting a 2004 deadline due to the difficulty of quickly informing messengers of the issues at stake. "I've heard messengers don't give much thought and typically adopt Executive Committee recommendations," said trustee Jim Davidson of Ruston, La.

Estimating the floor discussion would last about 15 minutes, Kelley agreed that the additional year would provide more time for Southern Baptists to understand the issues.

"There will be a misinformation campaign," Davidson said, drawing his conclusion from letters he received that he described as based on "misinformation or, at best, misunderstanding."

"If I make it as well known as possible," Kelley said, "and say in advance that sole membership is going to be on the table in 2005 it makes it harder for the kind of disinformation campaign they've been doing." He did not share details about what he considered to be a disinformation campaign.

Trustee Jerry Garrard of Tallahassee, Fla., questioned whether the board "could get a fair hearing on the convention floor." He asked whether the Executive Committee might propose removing a disagreeable trustee body, recalling a conversation with SBC President Jack Graham following the SBC EC fall meeting. Garrard said Graham expressed concern that the issue might surface at the convention and indicated he "would hate for us to have to elect convention trustees right there on the floor."

In a telephone interview with Baptist Press, Graham responded to Garrard's statement saying, "My position from the beginning has been that if the trustees of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and the members of the SBC Executive Committee are unable to resolve this issue, that it should be brought to the floor of the convention and let the messengers decide."